

Self-Guided Tour

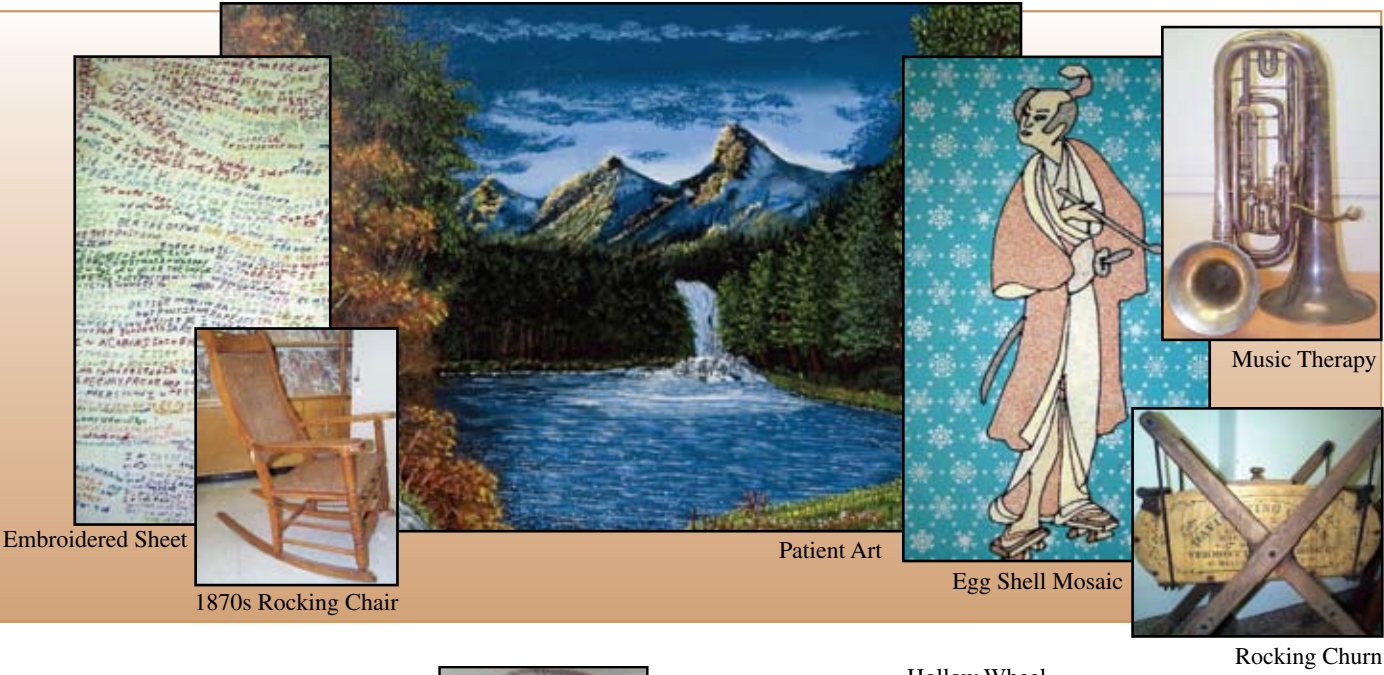
Third Floor

Until the mid-20th century, the hospital was like a rural community unto itself. Patients and staff lived, ate, worshipped, and banked on the grounds. Apartments for doctors and nurses were located in the Center/Administration Building. Dormitories housed other staff.

Among the exhibits on this floor you will find furniture and other displays that illustrate the daily lives of patients and staff. A typical patient sleeping room, equipment from the kitchen, and dietary departments are all represented.

Activity therapy, patient arts and crafts, music therapy, and recreation and occupational therapy exhibits are displayed. You'll also see a replica of a 1900 nurses' station complete with patient clothing storage boxes.

Other exhibits include "Rocking Chair" therapy, the "two-way television," and an embroidered sheet that was this patient's only form of communication.

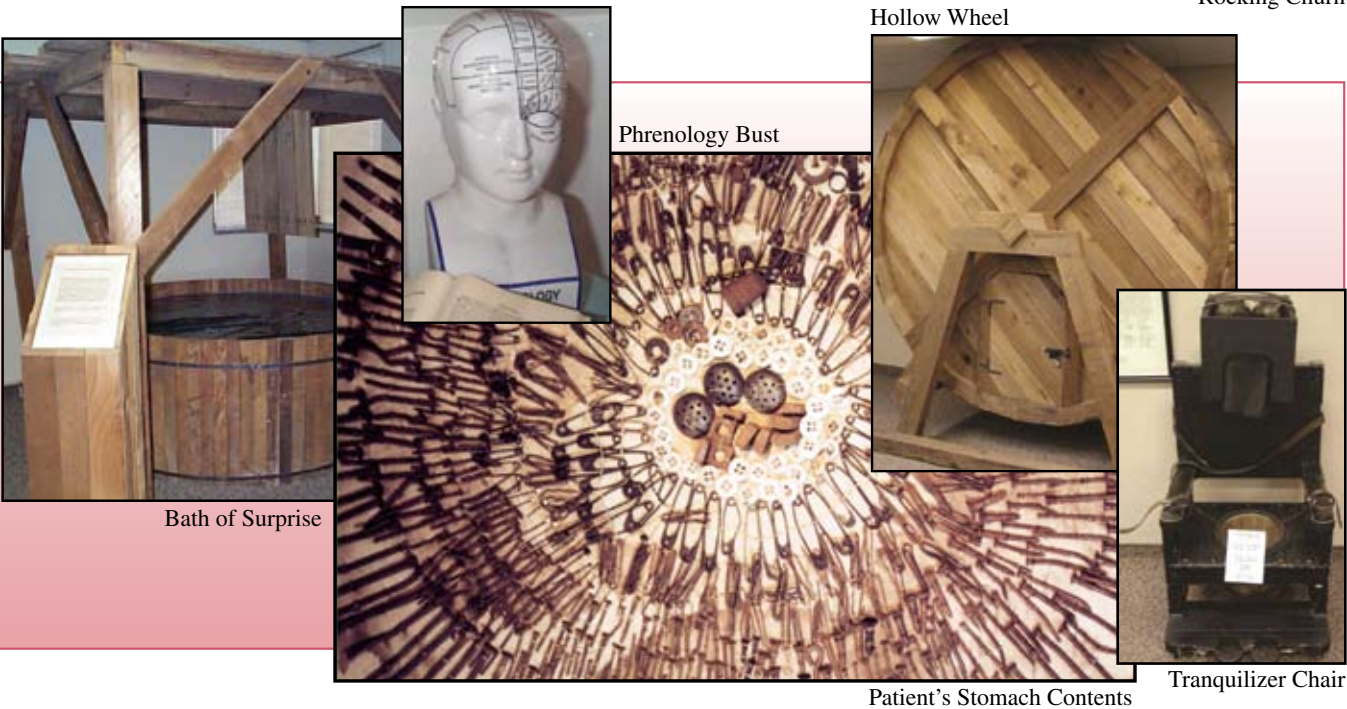


Second Floor

For most of the past 500 years, psychiatric treatment has been based on the assumption that the human brain was a simple, one-dimensional organ. Early treatment devices, like the reproductions displayed on this floor, produced just enough positive results to be continued into the late 19th century. The purpose of blistering, restraining, bleeding, dousing, stomping, and spinning was to shock the person back into a sense of reality.

By the beginning of the 20th century, there was enough "scientific" evidence that recently developed fever cabinets, hydrotherapy, phrenology, convulsive therapy, and psycho surgery would produce desired results.

Additional exhibits on this floor include early lab and pharmacy equipment, examples of 19th century restraints and tranquilizers, and the unbelievable results of a 1929 surgical procedure.



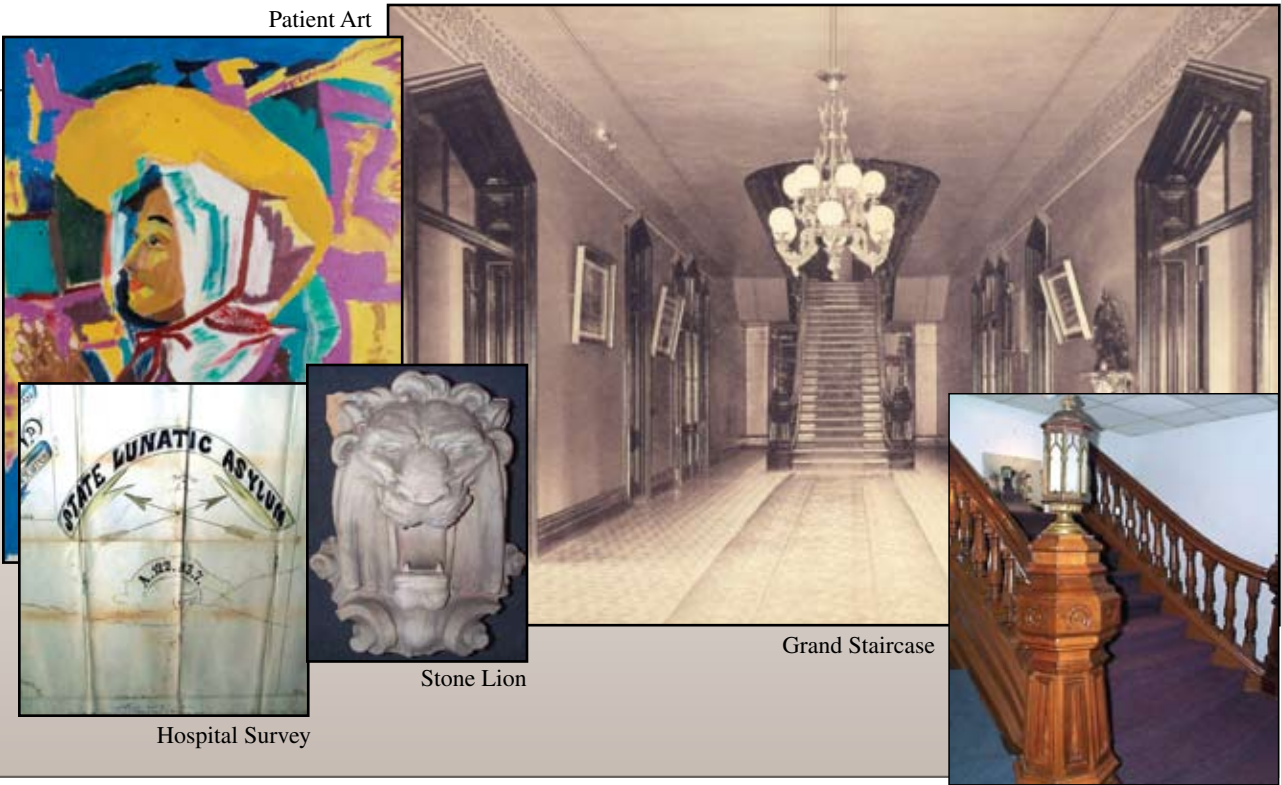
First Floor

Dr. Thomas Kirkbride, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, designed several psychiatric hospitals in the Midwest in the 1860s and 1870s. He believed that hospitals needed to be massive brick buildings to provide stable environments for the patients, but he also wanted the facilities to be open, airy, and well lit. One of his design features was an ornate grand staircase that usually framed an atrium-like opening that extended to a massive skylight on the fourth floor. Our hospital building featured this type of staircase. It is partially reassembled at the rear of this floor.

The original chandelier that hung in the building vestibule has been installed adjacent to the staircase. The stone lion under the chandelier, was removed from the St. Louis State Hospital building (built in 1869) as it was being demolished in 1998.

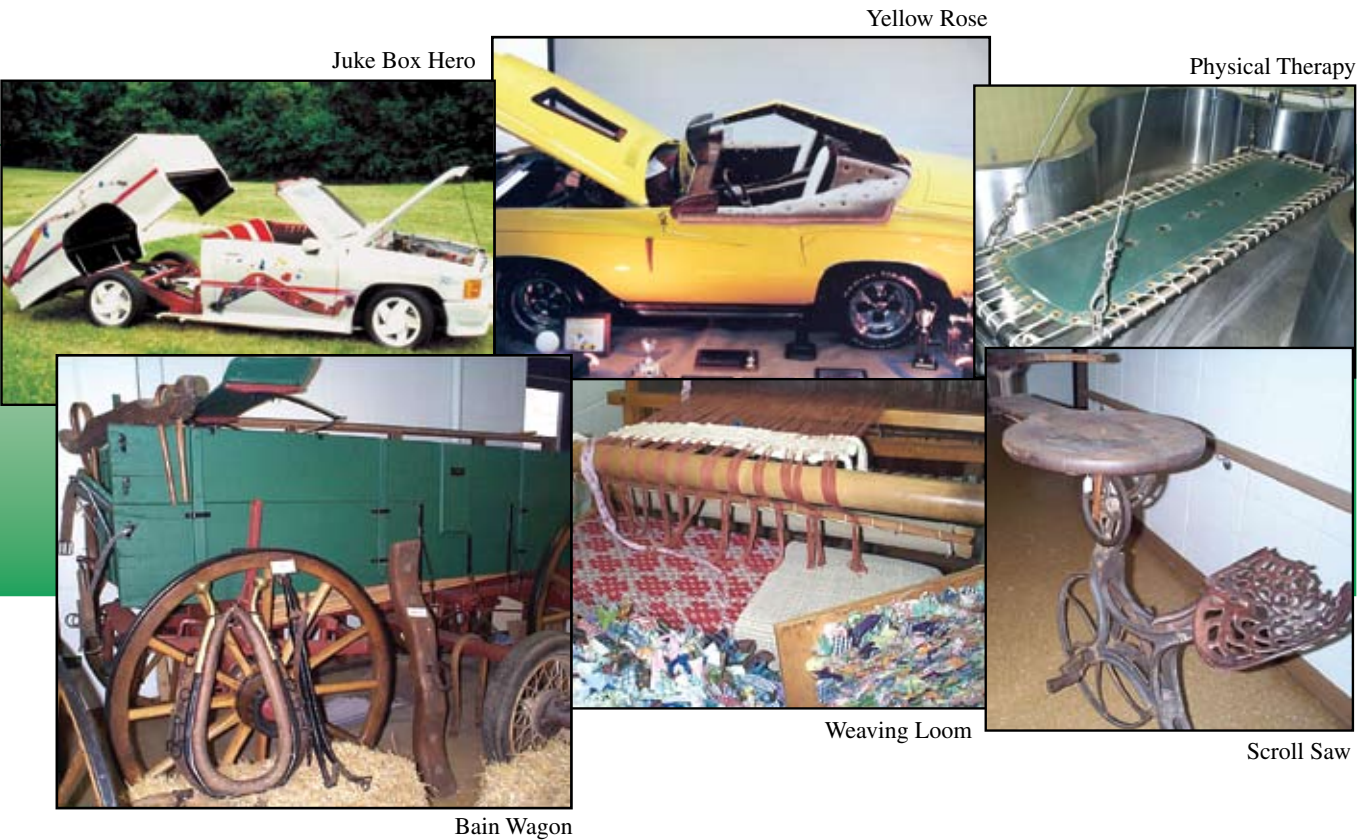
The Superintendent's Conference Room contains memorabilia and artifacts honoring the facility's Superintendents. The room is also used for small group meetings. The larger conference room at the rear of the floor hosts visiting groups, community meetings, and educational programs.

In addition, a Gift Shop and Museum administrative offices are located on this floor.



Basement

The hospital was largely self-sufficient until the mid-1950s. Hospital farms and orchards produced fruit, vegetables, grains, feed for hog and dairy operations, cattle and sheep. Exhibits in the basement hall illustrate hospital farm and maintenance operations. Other exhibits include physical therapy, occupational therapy, the sewing room, weaving, and a Sheltered Workshop exhibit. The "Yellow Rose" and "Juke Box Hero" are classic examples of Woodson Children's Psychiatric Hospital's educational programs. Because this building was a medical and surgical building, a morgue and autopsy room were included in the original design.



Canteen